

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 STR-08 HEW-08 SS-15

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 490

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CH

SUBJ: PRC MEAT EXPORTS

REF: STATE 134234; PEKING 0617

SUMMARY. THE CANADIANS, JAPANESE AND ITALIANS HAVE ALL HAD DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING FOR PRC EXPORTS OF MEAT TO THEIR COUNTRIES. INSPECTIONS ARE THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK, BUT OTHER OBSTACLES INCLUDE LABELING AND PACKAGING. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, SINO-CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS ON MEAT EXPORTS TO CANADA HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS. THE FIRST PROBLEM WAS INSPECTION. THE DEPUTY VETERINARY GENERAL OF CANADA VISITED THE PRC TWO YEARS AGO TO INSPECT SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT CANNING PLANTS. HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BUT THE CHINESE WOULD NOT AGREE TO PERIODIC INSPECTIONS. THE CANADIANS DECIDED TO FOREGO THEIR PERIODIC INSPECTION REQUIREMENT, PROVIDED THE CHINESE WOULD SHIP MEAT ONLY FROM THOSE PLANTS THAT HAD BEEN VISITED. NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE BECOME STYMIED OVER COMPLIANCE WITH CANADIAN REGULATIONS ON LABELING, ADDITIVES, ETC.

2. WE WERE UNABLE TO GET PRECISE DETAILS FROM A JAPANESE COLLEAGUE, BUT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT TALKS ON PRC MEAT EXPORTS TO

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JAPAN WERE STALLED OVER THE PROBLEM OF INSPECTIONS, AND OVER

CERTIFICATION THE PRC WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE AS TO WHICH
SLAUGHTERHOUSE THE MEAT COMES FROM.

3. ACCORDING TO AN ITALIAN EMBOFF, ITALY DOES NOT REQUIRE
ON-SITE INSPECTION (OR AT LEAST NOT TO THE EXTENT THAT WE DO).
LAST YEAR, AN ITALIAN DELEGATION TOURED CERTAIN MEAT
PROCESSING FACILITIES AND THE ITALIANS AGREED THAT MEAT
IMPORTED FROM THESE PLANTS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, AND THAT MEAT
FROM OTHER PLANTS WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE WITHOUT FURTHER
INSPECTION SO LONG AS THE CHINESE CERTIFIED THAT THE ADDITIONAL
PLANTS WERE OF THE SAME STANDARD AS THOSE ORIGINALLY
VISITED. THE CHINESE RESPONDED TO AN ITALIAN DRAFT WITH
THEIR OWN VERSION WHICH STATED THAT ALL INSPECTION OF MEAT AND
DOCUMENTATION THEREOF WOULD BE DONE BY THE CHINESE SIDE. THIS
WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE ITALIANS, BUT AGREEMENT STILL COULD NOT
BE REACHED BECAUSE OF LABELING AND PACKAGING PROBLEMS. EEC
REGULATIONS STIPULATE THAT ALL FRESH MEAT OVER THREE KILOS MUST
BE WRAPPED INDIVIDUALLY AND THAT A STAMP IDENTIFYING THE
ORIGIN BE PLACED DIRECTLY ON THE MEAT. THE CHINESE HAVE
OFFERED ONLY TO STAMP THE OUTSIDE OF EACH PACKAGE AND INSIST ON
PACKAGING SEVERAL PIECES OF MEAT TOGETHER, THUS EXCEEDING
THE THREE-KILO RULE. THE MATTER IS AT DEAD CENTER.

4. USLO WILL PASS ON ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING
THIRD-COUNTRY MEAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRC WHICH MAY COME
TO OUR ATTENTION.
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